



George Mason University
Sports & Ethics
SPMT-302-001 Fall 2012, Robinson Hall A205
Monday/Wednesday 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Syllabus

Professor: Adam Brick
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Reading

- *Ethics of Sport and Athletics*, Robert C. Schneider

Course Description

This course investigates moral issues in sport, and judgments about right and wrong behavior among athletes, coaches, spectators, and others. The class format is primarily lectures and class discussion, supplemented by group work, group presentations, individual presentations and discussion of assigned readings and current ethical issues in sports.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the moral bases of decision making in sport management;
- Develop a protocol for ethical decision-making within the organizations which govern sport programs;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the various issues and contemporary problems confronting sport managers and how ethical decision making can be applied;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Managing By Values process;
- Develop an ability to critically analyze various decision-making approaches to resolving ethical issues in sports management;
- Develop an understanding of a variety of ethical theories; and
- Attain the knowledge to understand & refine a personal and professional code of ethics to guide decision making

Honor Code

George Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore,

for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, a violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code. With this in mind, all students in this course are held to the strictest standards of the George Mason University Honor Code.

Student Support

Any eligible student with an exceptionality documented through George Mason University's Disability Resource Center must notify the instructor so that suitable accommodations can be implemented. The notification should take place during the first week of class.

Responsibilities

- Assigned reading is expected to be done prior to coming to class.
- All written assignments must be typed.
- Regular attendance and participation is expected.
- Abide by the Honor Code, guided by the spirit of academic integrity.

Class Attendance

Attendance will be taken prior to each class session. Class attendance and participation enhances your academic success and will be a factor in grading. Therefore, you should attend all scheduled class meetings in accordance with George Mason policy.

You can only stay engaged in the subject matter if you read the required material and achieve deeper learning through class discussion. Ethics is not black and white. Ethics are personal and they are professional. The definition of ethics is different for different people. Differences in decision-making in ethical situations happens everyday by people with sound principles, rigorous discipline and unparalleled integrity. "Good" people will disagree on the road to be taken, or the ethical decision to be made. You will each learn more about your personal and professional values and ethics the more you allow them to be challenged. This course should be a catalyst for self-assessment. Class discussion will enhance your review.

Participation

Respect the free exchange of thought in an academic environment and the participants therein. For example: a) do not have any sound emitting devices turned on; b) wait until the teacher/guest speaker has finished prior to gathering your belongings; and c) do not smoke, chew tobacco, eat, sleep, disrupt others by inappropriate talking, or disrespect the class schedule by being tardy. You are encouraged to a) feel free to openly and respectfully contribute your thoughts; b) listen actively to the comments of others; c) be punctual; d) ask any and all appropriate questions that you have; and e) maintain civility in your interpersonal communications. Class discussions will be conducted in a civil, informed fashion wherein disruptive students will be asked to leave the class. Your contributions are not only welcomed, they are essential.

Case Studies

Topics related to sports and ethics will be selected from the textbook and current sports news, and used for class discussion and for case studies. Each student will participate in the analysis of two case studies. In preparation for a case study, students must submit a 1-2 page analysis and lead the class discussion related to the particular case.

Exams

There will be a mid-term and a final examination.

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes throughout the semester. The top three scores on the quizzes will each count thirty points (totaling a value of 90 points toward the final grade). The quiz subject matter will be related to the required reading or discussion from previous classes.

Paper

During the course the class will view a movie selected by the professor related to ethical issues in sports. Each student will write a paper (not a movie critique) that includes an analysis of the ethical implications of the movie using the theories and decision-making models learned in class. Papers should be 4-6 pages in length with all appropriate citations.

Guest Speakers

Prominent guest speakers from the sports business industry may be used on an occasional basis.

Important Dates to Remember

August 27 th	First Class
October 17 th	Mid-Term Examination
November 19 th	Papers Due
December 17 th	Final Examination

Evaluation

This class will be guided by the principle that when it comes to ethics, “This is who I am, not what I do.” Translation: Everything will be evaluated, because what is not evaluated does not improve.

Class participation & attendance	200
Quizzes (3 out of 4)	90
Mid-Term Examination	200
Case Studies (2)	100
Paper	200
Final Examination	200
<u>Courtesy of the Professor</u>	<u>10</u>
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	1,000

Grading Scale

Course Score	Grade
970-1000	A+
930-969	A
900-929	A-
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
650-699	D
649 or less	F

Alternative Work

There is NO make-up work. Only those excused absences supported by documentation will be addressed at the instructor’s discretion on an individual basis (e.g. a physician’s note for an illness). Alternative work due to intercollegiate athletic competitions or other legitimate university activity must be arranged PRIOR to due date. A grade of ‘0’ will be assigned to all missed work unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Course Outline & Schedule (subject to change):

DATE		TEXT CHAPTER READINGS	OTHER ASSIGNMENTS
M	8/27	Course Overview	
W	8/29	Introduction to Ethics	
M	9/3	<i>No Class – Labor Day</i>	
W	9/5	Introduction to Ethics	
M	9/10	<i>No Class</i>	
W	9/12	Introduction to Ethics	
M	9/17	Chapters 1 & 2	
W	9/19	Chapters 1 & 2	<i>Quiz #1</i>
M	9/24	Chapters 1 & 2	
W	9/26	<i>No Class</i>	
M	10/1	Chapters 1 & 2	
W	10/3	Chapter 3	Case Studies
M	10/8	<i>No Class – Columbus Day</i>	
T	10/9	Chapter 3	Case Studies
W	10/10	Chapter 4	<i>Quiz #2/Case Studies</i>
M	10/15	Chapter 4	
W	10/17	<i>Mid-Term Examination</i>	
M	10/22	<i>Movie</i>	
W	10/24	<i>Movie</i>	
M	10/29	Chapter 5	
W	10/31	Chapter 5	Case Studies
M	11/5	Chapter 6	Case Studies
W	11/7	Chapter 6	<i>Quiz #3/Case Studies</i>
M	11/12	Chapter 7	Case Studies
W	11/14	Chapter 7	Case Studies
M	11/19	Chapter 8	<i>Papers Due</i>
W	11/21	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving</i>	
M	11/26	Chapter 8	
W	11/28	Chapter 9	<i>Quiz #4/Case Studies</i>
M	12/3	Chapter 9	Case Studies
W	12/5	Chapter 9	
M	12/17	<i>Final Exam 1:30 pm – 4:15 p.m.</i>	